

City of Rockville Commission on the Environment  
September 9, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Faith Klareich (FK), Seth Adams (SA), Steve Cardon (SC), Michelle Clark (MC), Kris Dighe (KD), and Beri Kravitz (BK), David Davis (DD) and Tolulope Odunlami (TO).

Absent: None.

Also in attendance: Staff Liaison Nate Wall (NW); Mark Charles (MCh) – Chief of Environmental Management; David Levy (DL) – Chief of Long Range Planning and Redevelopment; potential EC applicant; and some Boy Scouts interested in government process.

**1. Welcome, News and Agenda Review**

The meeting was called to order at 6:46 pm in the Mayor & Council Chambers at Rockville City Hall. FK invited everyone to help themselves to dinner before the meeting got underway.

**2. Comprehensive Master Plan Update – David Levy**

DL mentioned that he had presented to the Planning Commission in August, and to the Mayor & Council Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, and was also interested in keeping the Environment Commission informed.

He briefly described the Master Planning process:

- State of Maryland requires a review of the Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) every 6 years. Rockville's last review was conducted in November 2002.
- This review is simply to determine whether any revisions are necessary to the currently adopted CMP. Note that the outcome of the state-mandated review is basically a Yes/No answer.
- If revisions are deemed necessary (highly likely in this case), then Long Range Planning staff will begin looking at each of the sections in detail and engage in a public process for what the revised CMP should look like.

When reviewing the CMP, want to keep in mind other plans: neighborhood plans, zoning ordinance, PROS plan, etc. Is this consistent? Does it reflect the sustainability that Rockville wishes to see? The CMP has a 20 year vision, subject to revision every 6 years.

The CMP also contains recommendations in each sections. These recommendations should be reviewed: which ones have been implemented? Which ones haven't? Which ones should or shouldn't be? What's missing?

All reviews are presented to the Planning Commission. They decide how much revision is necessary, and make a recommendation to the Mayor & Council who then issue a report to the State Planning office.

DL said that the Environment Commission will likely wish to review several sections of the CMP, not just the "Environment" chapter. FK said that the Commission will likely divide up all of the sections and review the CMP in its entirety, as was done for the Zoning Ordinance.

DL reminded that this first review was simply to determine whether revisions were necessary or not. The Commission will likely wish to read the staff report to the Planning Commission regarding the CMP, likely released in mid- to late-November. After the decision has been made to revise the CMP, the Environment Commission can submit comments via NW for consideration in the revised version.

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**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

KD moves to approve August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as written; DD seconds. Unanimous approval of August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

**4. Joint Session with Mayor & Council – September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

FK briefly summed up the revised Green building Program Recommendations she had compiled from previous discussions. KD moved, BK seconded, to submit the green building program recommendations to City Staff and the Mayor & Council.

In terms of Commission Goals & Accomplishments, FK asked that each working group create a 2 page Power Point presentation listing their accomplishments, and should nominate someone to describe that working group's accomplishments to the Mayor & Council. Send presentations to NW to compile into a single document.

For the Environmental Excellence Award, DD mentioned that the Outreach Group had been working to reinvigorate the program. One change is that it is no longer an annual program, but rather applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, and awards recommended to the Mayor & Council at the most opportune time for the project/activity, rather than an artificial annual deadline.

After explaining the program, DD moved to reinstate the Environmental Excellence Awards Program has proposed; BK seconds. The Environment Commission voted unanimously to reinvigorate the program.

DD then brought up the case of 2000 Tower Oaks Boulevard. He explained the green features of this LEED-Platinum building, and moved to recommend that the Tower Companies be awarded an Environmental Excellence Award for Outstanding Achievement in Green Building Technology/Design for their 2000 Tower Oaks Boulevard project; BK seconds. The Environment Commission voted unanimously to bestow the award to the Tower Companies.

To recap, FK said that the major aspects of the conversation with the Mayor & Council would be: 1a) The Environmental Excellence Award Program; 1b) EEA for the Tower Companies; 2) Green Building Program Recommendations; and 3) EC and Working Group Goals and Achievements. In addition, FK would like to have an interactive discussion to discuss the Mayor & Council's goals for the environment, and to make sure that there was a shared vision moving forwards.

**5. Working Group Updates**

DD mentioned that the Outreach Group had mainly been working on the Environmental Excellence Award criteria and on reviewing the 2000 Tower Oaks Blvd project.

SA said that the High-Performance Buildings group had a lengthy discussion on their role in the future, and also discussed the need for additional education about green buildings in Rockville. FK mentioned that now that the green building recommendations have been submitted, we may wish to expand the role of the HPB group to best direct their energies.

SC said that the Watershed Protection group has been busy with the Adopt-A-Stream and volunteer monitoring programs. Jim Ingle and Audra Lew have been discussing the particulars of what to monitor in the streams, and how often. They have planned their first training session for November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Croyden Creek Nature Center.

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**6. Staff Updates**

NW mentioned that the Mayor & Council just approved the new Recycling Ordinance, which requires virtually all commercial, retail, and other institutions in the City to recycle. This program will be run through the Montgomery County SORRT program.

Works has been proceeding on a plan to control Non-Native Invasive species (NNIs) within Rockville. The Environmental Management Division has been working with Montgomery County Park & Planning and the City's Forestry Division to come up with appropriate Best Practices and requirements for NNI control within the City. More information forthcoming as the plan progresses.

**7. Pending / Previously Tabled Items**

No previously tabled items were addressed at this meeting.

**8. Wrap-Up and Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.